

the ranks of war, to carry out the stern ^{responsibilities} of a great people "to let it be understood that they intended that those whose duty it might be, should make themselves qualified!" To be, to be sure, hardly what D'Israeli would call a "good cry," being scarcely more clear a scarcely less cumbersome than the prim donor's request that the church contribution list the day should be turned over to a certain poor sick woman or the flock, on the ground that "Miss Member had become a charitable." Told, if Mr. Eaton had only told us in the beginning what he tells us now.

great proportion" of our public officers, that, as always have been, worthy men, it would be as if Pitt and Burke and Clay and Webster and the Italian statesmen, and all the saints and martyrs, might have been allowed to maintain in their quiet graves, and an ingenious people might have found some way "to let it be understood that they intended that those who duty it might be should make themselves qualified," without making such enormous draughts on Mr. Estlin's courageous spirit, or suffering General Grant's military fame to be dimmed by the brilliant coruscations of a Reform Brother so near the Throne. GAIL HAMILTON.

Presidential Elections.

**The Mode of Choosing the President
the United States.—The Maish Plan.**

III.

In February of last year Mr. Maish of Pennsylvania introduced into the House of Representatives a resolution for Constitutional Amendment, which would

ment, which embodied a highly ingenious and yet simple plan for the election of the President and Vice President by a direct vote of the people as follows: The qualified citizens of each state are to cast their votes for President and Vice President by ballot and certified returns of these votes under seal, are to be made within ten days to the Secretaries of the State who is to open them in the presence of the Chief Executive and the Chief Justice of the State, and these officers shall assign to each candidate voted for his proportionate part of

electoral vote to which the state is entitled on the principle by which representatives in Congress are assigned to the several states, viz., dividing the whole number of votes returned by the number of electoral votes to which the state is entitled, assigning to each candidate one electoral vote for the number of popular votes cast for him corresponding to the quotient, and an additional electoral vote for every repetition of the same number and then if necessary one for each highest fractional part of

name for any of the candidates till the whole number of the electoral votes to which the state is entitled is distributed; and the candidate thus receiving the majority of votes in the United States shall be the President.

This plan, it will be seen, while it dispenses with the electoral college, retains in the hands of the states the whole machinery of electoral voting for the President and leaves the distribution of the votes among the candidates to the discretion of the electors, and thus secures the election of the superior officers and according to a familiar and well-defined principle. The evils of the general ticket system too are avoided as

local majorities count towards the general result. The plan, therefore, cannot be objected to as abridging the rights and privileges of the States or as intentionally unjust in principle. But is it quite certain that the principle of distribution is the best adapted to attain justice in the case? May it not exclude minorities, scarcely less fatal than the local majorities excluded by the general ticket-system? Suppose that 100,000 votes are cast for two presidential candidates in a state entitled to four electoral votes, the electoral quotient or ratio of concern is 25,000. If now, we suppose 62,000 votes cast for one of the candidates and 38,000 for the

Under the latter with not many more than half the number of popular votes which the other has will have the same number of electoral votes; since taking fifty thousand (ratio for 100,000 popular votes) from the first sum leaves 12,000, while 25,000 (the ratio for one elector-vote) taken from the latter leaves 13,000 which being the larger fraction, would receive the fourth electoral vote. And cases like this it is obvious, would continually occur. The plan, therefore, would seem to be no improvement on the present plan of voting for electors by general ticket.

J. T. C.

[From a Letter by Rev. W. W. Thorne of N. Y.]

That Iowa Chaplain.

I am politically a staunch Republican, have been identified with that party from my youth and showed my loyalty to it and the government by service in the late "unpleasantness." Perhaps a stronger term would call out another resolution, for ministers have no right of opinion that our wise legislators are bound to respect. From the inauguration of the present administration I have been saddened with M

Hayes's perceptive and cautious policy of conciliation, and as I have watched the unfolding affairs in the South, this feeling has grown deeper and deeper from week to week. I am now complimented by being told by him that it was not "credit to me that I drew the sword in defense of the government," for if it was not credit it must have been a crime. Perhaps had these things in mind when I offered this following prayer for him in the House on Wednesday morning:

"And now, O Lord, we pray for our ruler."

Thou hast taught us to do in Thy holy Word. On Thy blessing rest, we humbly beseech Thee, on Thy servant, the president of the United States. I have pleased to cure him of the insanity of the feeling that he had put himself in Thy way sympathy for a section of the country, and enable him to discharge his duty to heed the sentiment of all the people. May his will be swept into Thy will in Thy plan saving the lost."

This is the substance of the prayer: that we should be so offensive to this honorable Mr. Bleidunk as to cause some of his colleagues. It is a queer wretched thing they would not be better pleased to dispense entirely with the services of the clergy in the House and out of it—until they come to die.

While I enter to man in my respect for
Hayes as a private citizen and Christian by
man, I am at the same time aggrieved by
man, I wish at the same time his right to express
his view of a Christian, and I wish to
God. The prayer was an honest one, and
the expression of my convictions and desires
God and not to the Legislature or any member
in behalf of President Hayes, and I care
at all for the favor or disfavor of
Alexander Blanding and his colleagues in
Armed, and regard myself responsible
only for the spirit that directs my address

The resolution contained another unprofitable allusion to the fact that the State to the pastors who spend their valuable time in serving the Legislature. With reference to that I have only to say that the sum thus appropriated to each of the sixteen or eighteen pastors of this city is a very small consideration when placed in the scale over against the enormous salaries paid to the members of the Legislature.

(N. Y. World.)

The Hen and the Codfish.

A Hen having laid an Egg was informed

the Universe of the Fact, when a prolific Codfish rebuked her for her unseemly Eggotitis—"fish," said the Inhabitant of the Vasty Deep—"lay in my lifetime 763,854 927,380 Eggs, which, if they come to maturity and were invested at compound interest, would in less than four years cover the habitable surface of the Earth to a depth of six Metres with Codfish and in five convert the Globe itself into one Fish-ball, with which it would be impossible to give Bread." "Well, why don't they, then,

Geo. A. Foxcroft, at one time a prominent Boston journalist, died yesterday.

It is thought now there is now a good prospect of Anderson's pardon by Gov. Nicholls.

Bill to fund the Virginia state debt has passed the Legislature.

Another affray has occurred among the Princeton students and several badly hurt. Several arrests have been made.

Sitting Bull is said to be in fine condition and only waiting good weather to raid upon the Americans.

A west bound passenger train from Chicago was thrown from the track yesterday.

The wooden bridge across the Raritan river at New Brunswick, N. J., has been completed. The first through train since Saturday's fire passed over yesterday morning.

